

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 10647 280905Z
ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-07 INR-05 PM-03 NSC-05 NSCE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 EUR-08 OES-02
/049 W

-----111060 280928Z /10

P R 280834Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5023
AMCONSUL BOMBAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 10647

LIMDIS

ISLAMABAD FOR JOSEPH NYE

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, IN
SUBJ: VIEWS ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS OF DIRECTOR FOR
DISARMAMENT (MEA) K P JAIN

1. DURING COURSE OF A DINNER JULY 26, THE DIRECTOR
FOR DISARMAMENT (MEA) K P JAIN EXPLAINED HIS VIEWS TO
EMBOFF ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED
DURING THE COURSE OF THE NYE VISIT. WHILE JAIN IS NOT
EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN THESE TALKS, WE
BELIEVE THAT HE PROBABLY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE GOI'S
PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETINGS. MOST RECENTLY JAIN
WAS THE LEADER OF THE INDIAN DELEGATION TO THE MARCH
SESSION OF THE CCD.

2. DISCUSSING THE NYE VISIT, JAIN ASKED WHAT SCOPE
REMAINED FOR THE TALKS, SINCE BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE
BEEN VERY EXPLICIT IN MAKING THEIR POSITIONS KNOWN.
EMBOFF REPLIED THAT TALKS WOULD SERVE TO CLARIFY
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CONCERNS ON BOTH SIDES ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES AND
THAT ON A TOPIC SUCH AS FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS THERE
APPEARED TO BE ROOM FOR FURTHER ELUCIDATION OF
POSITIONS. CONCERNING THE SAFEGUARDS ISSUE, JAIN
CRITICALLY POINTED TO THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CIVIL
AND MILITARY USES MADE BY THE US.

3. JAIN THEN TURNED TO THE AMERICAN CONCERN WITH BREEDER REACTOR TECHNOLOGY. HE STRESSED THE PROBLEM OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS INDIA WHICH WERE DEPENDENT ON OTHERS FOR URANIUM AND SAID THEY WERE VULNERABLE TO HAVING THEIR SUPPLY INTERRUPTED, CITING THIS AS A POSSIBILITY IN THE CASE OF TARPUR. MOREOVER, BREEDER TECHNOLOGY WAS IMPORTANT TO INDIA WHICH WAS FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL RESERVES OF THORIUM. FINALLY HE QUESTIONED THE USG'S MOTIVES IN ITS CONCERN WITH BREEDER REACTORS. US ANXIETY ABOUT BREEDERS IS INTENDED, HE SAID, TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE REAL PROBLEM, WHICH IS VERTICAL PROLIFERATION.

4. CONCERNING THE DANGER TO INDIA FROM PAKISTAN'S ACQUIRING A REPROCESSING PLANT FROM FRANCE, JAIN DENIED THAT THIS POSED ANY PROBLEM. WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THAT PAKISTAN MIGHT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN PLUTONIUM FROM THIS FACILITY, HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT PAKISTAN DID NOT HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY TO UTILIZE IT TO PRODUCE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. INDEED, EXCEPT FOR ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA, NO OTHER NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRY HAS THE NECESSARY TECHNOLOGY. HE SAID THE FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT WAS A "TURN KEY" PROJECT WHICH WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO PAKISTAN'S NUCLEAR KNOW-HOW.

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5. THE CONVERSATION TURNED TO THE NUCLEAR STRATEGY OF THE USSR, AND JAIN DECLINED TO SEE ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIETS WERE DEVELOPING A FIRST STRIKE, COUNTER-FORCE CAPABILITY, AS IS SUGGESTED BY THEIR DEPLOYMENT OF HEAVY WARHEADS. IN HIS VIEW THE

SOVIET BEHAVIOR IS EXPLAINED AS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE TO THE USSR IN RESPONSE TO THE FAR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY THE PRECISION OF US WEAPONS. SUCH ARGUMENT THAT THE SOVIETS ARE DEVELOPING A FIRST

STRIKE CAPABILITY IS BEING ADVANCED IN THE US, ACCORDING TO JAIN, TO JUSTIFY INCREASED EXPENDITURES FOR STRATEGIC ARMS.

6. AND FINALLY ON THE NPT, JAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOI WOULD NOT ATTACK THE TREATY. IT COMMENTED ONLY WHEN INDIA WAS CRITICIZED FOR NOT SIGNING IT.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, NUCLEAR FUELS, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NEWDE10647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770270-0380
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977079/aaaaahni.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 31d0b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1959841
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIEWS ON NUCLEAR AFFAIRS OF DIRECTOR FOR DISARMAMENT (MEA) K P JAIN
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, PARM, IN, US, UR, JA, PK, (JAIN, K P)
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/31d0b370-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009